**Montana State Digital Library Combined Report – April/May 2013**
**Montana Natural Heritage Program**
**Library Information Services**
**Geographic Information**

**Goal One – Content –** *MSL acquires and manages relevant quality content that meets the needs of Montana library users.*

- LIS staff amended the fiscal year 2014 digitization contract with the Internet Archive and returned it to the state procurement office for a signature and fourth renewal, fifth year of the contract. LIS staff also submitted justification information that documents our satisfaction with the contractor's performance and how continuation of the contract will be in the interest of the state. LIS continues to streamline the scanning preparation process and has already prepared two shipments for digitization in anticipation of the new contract.

- MTNHP released a new and revised version on the Montana Land Cover database. The Land Cover database is one of the Montana Spatial Database Infrastructure (MSDI) themes and MTNHP is the steward for the data. The new 2013 MSDI Land Cover data is now available in the MTNHP MapViewer and Ecological System Field Guide; the MSDI public map service; and for download from the MSL Geographic Information web site.

- The Wetlands and Riparian Mapping Center in the Natural Heritage Program finished mapping the 29 quads of the Lower Musselshell, which was its main FY-13 Montana Spatial Data Infrastructure grant deliverable.

- MTNHP Zoology and Information Services staff added an additional 28,268 observations to the animal point observation databases. Animal point observation databases now have 1,367,495 point observation records (980,346 bird records and 387,149 records of other animal species). Similarly, information has been added for an additional 5,396 structured animal surveys; the central database now contains a total of 153,777 structured animal survey locations. Note that while a large number of observations have been added, 159,300 (~12%) of the observation records still need to be reviewed for final acceptance into the database. These observation records and structured surveys are viewable on the Natural Heritage Tracker and MapViewer and generalized observations are viewable on the Montana Field Guide.

- In May, MSL Geographic Information acquired CadNSDI 2 from BLM. CadNSDI 2 is the newest version of the digital Public Land Survey System (PLSS). Staff will be incorporating the new data into existing data sets such as the cadastral ownership parcels, public land ownership, as well as several boundary themes. Incorporation means adjusting our existing data, both parcels and boundaries, to the new coordinate positions of the PLSS.

**Goal Two – Access –** *MSL provides libraries, agencies, and its partners and patrons with convenient, high quality, and cost-effective access to library content and services.*

- In conjunction with our collaborative effort with the Governor's Office and the Department of Administration to "map enable" the state's web presence, MSL GIS Analyst and Cartographer Keith Blount developed a new general purpose base map. This map will be directly linked off the state home page and can also be viewed at http://apps.msl.mt.gov/Geographic_Information/Maps/Gallery/basicviewer/index.html?id=9158c7d15bd34025a702707bf8a0951f . This is part of a larger effort to re-engineer the entire MSL Map Gallery; an effort we will likely highlight in August.

- The Natural Heritage Program created a new data product, "Plant Observations", which is available by request. The data include observations of native plant species, rather than just the Species of Concern available in our Plant Species Occurrences. Metadata for the observations was uploaded to the Montana GIS Portal, along with updated metadata for Animal Observations.

- Natural Heritage Program staff Linda Vance (Senior Ecologist), Sara Owen (Ecologist/GIS Specialist), and Jane Horton (Ecologist) published a new report entitled: *Literature review: Hydrology-ecology relationships in Montana Prairie wetlands and intermittent/ephemeral streams* in April.

- In collaboration with the FWP member of the Montana Species of Concern Committee, Zoology Program and Information Services staff created a new "Species of Highest Inventory Need" report under the Animal Species of Concern Report. The report provides information on the habitat use, likely occupancy of Region 1 Forests, BLM Field Offices, and Fish, Wildlife, and Parks Regions, as well as survey needs for species that either lack baseline surveys or have baseline surveys that are outdated. Without these surveys, the current conservation status of these species is unknown. The report is divided up by Species of Concern and Potential Concern that lack baseline surveys, Species of Concern and Potential Concern that have outdated surveys, and non-Species of Concern that lack baseline surveys. This information will be used in FWP's update to the State Wildlife Action Plan.

- LIS staff prepared and took enough professional library development books to fill two library carts to the 2013 Montana Library Association meeting. Bringing the collection directly to our users made it easier for them to browse and check out books that otherwise might not have circulated as much.

**Goal Three – Training –** *MSL provides appropriate trainings and training resources so that the best use can be made of the resources offered.*

- Allan Cox, Lead Program Manager for the Natural Heritage Program, presented a half-day workshop to US Bureau of Land Management biologists and GIS analysts at the BLM State Office in Billings on April 23rd. The workshop provided detailed information on the data and information managed by the MTNHP and how to access data and services.

- In April and May, Zoology staff answered over 50 requests from patrons regarding zoological information that entailed more than 100 hours of staff time. These requests included training new agency users on the Natural Heritage MapViewer and Natural Heritage Tracker websites, lengthy consultations with the BLM on the Sensitive Species List, and lengthy consultations with the USFS on creation of documents to streamline the review of amphibian species under NEPA reviews for projects.

- LIS staff received training/instruction on a teletypewriter phone (TTY) from the Montana Telecommunications Access Program. LIS staff in turn trained other LIS staff on the equipment designed to provide telephone services for those unable to use standard phones to access library services.

- Geographic Information staff gave the following presentations at the MAGIP Spring Technical Session in Miles City:
  - Address Data Best Practices – Michael Fashoway
  - Census Pilot Project to Create a Seamless Boundary Dataset – Erin Fashoway
  - Map Projections – Gerry Daumiller
  - Geocoding Using the MSL Geocoding Web Service – Michael Fashoway
  - Implementing ArcGIS Online at MSL – Erin Fashoway

**Goal Four – Consultation and Leadership –** *MSL provides consultation and leadership to enable users to set and reach their goals.*

- MSL was invited by State Information Technology Services Division to provide input into getting maps integrated into an updated version of the state's web site. After exploring several different options there was mutual agreement that a state base map would appear from a direct link off the main page and they would provide a link to a state map gallery. MSL will collaborate with other state agencies to build content for the state map gallery.

- The FY14 MLIA grant process was successfully completed resulting in the recommendation that the Library Commission approve funding for eleven applicants.

- The annual Esri Enterprise License Agreement (ELA) true-up, as required as required by the ELA contract was completed by the State GIS Coordinator and submitted to Esri on May 15th. The ELA Enterprise Advantage Program credit allocation for FY14 was completed at the same time with the Esri and State credit usage totals in balance.

- Beth Downs and Sam Suber presented "Montana State Government Information: Harvesting the Bounty for Your Patrons" at the 2013 Montana Library Association annual meeting. Attendees were given a sneak preview of the new LIS content management system for providing access to the text and web archives.

- Bryce Maxell, MTNHP Senior Zoologist, gave presentations to the USFS Regional Inventory and Monitoring Board (May 9, 2013) and an interagency working group (April 12, 2013) on statewide efforts to document year-round bat activity and roost habitat use as part of the response to the threat of White-Nose-Syndrome to Montana bats.

- Paul Hendricks, MTNHP Zoologist, was the lead on author on a publication on *Aerial Ramming, a Burrow Excavation Behavior by Belted Kingfishers*, with a Review of its Occurrence Among the Alcedinidae (Journal of Ornithology 125(1): 197-201).

**Goal Five – Collaboration –** *MSL promotes partnerships and encourages collaboration among its users.*

- Allan Cox, Lead Program Manager, for the Natural Heritage Program attended the Biodiversity without Borders Conference in Baltimore, MD in April. The conference is an annual gathering of Natural Heritage Programs from across the country. At the conference, Allan also gave a presentation on the Land Management Mapping Project managed by the MTNHP.

- Karen Newlon, Ecologist/Project Manager for the Natural Heritage Program, presented a talk entitled "Creating a Value-Added Wetlands Layer: Enhancing the Utility of Montana's Wetlands Framework Theme" at the 2013 MAGIP Spring Meeting in Miles City.

- State Librarian Jennie Stapp, MSL CIO Evan Hammer, and State GIS Coordinator Stu Kirkpatrick have all been working with the ITMC GIS Community of Interest, as well as the State CIO, to examine collaborative governance models for GIS enterprise architecture. MSL has held up the Shared Catalogue as a model that has some potential for working. Then next step is to attempt to gain CIO buy-in for project management assistance to assemble a needs assessment and business plan that could lead to a new governance model prior to FY16/17 budgeting.

- The LIS manager participated in an hour-long telephone assessment interview conducted by Government Printing Office outreach librarian regarding the Montana State Library's compliance with the *Legal Requirements and Program Regulations of the Federal Depository Library Program.* The LIS manager agreed to participate in a GPO program that provides MARC records for electronic publications free of charge.

**Goal Six – Sustainable Success –** *MSL is efficient and effective (measured against user outcomes), and is engaged in fulfilling its mission.*

- MSL Geographic Information was able to hire a new GIS Analyst. Troy Blandford started work for MSL on May 20th. He was previously employed by DNRC where he specialized in water information.

- Marc Scow from Synergy Institute facilitated an all-day retreat for Library Information Services staff with discussions that considered current and future

business models, big questions, trend analysis, competitive advantage, strategies, and identity statement. A follow up meeting is scheduled to discuss specific next steps for delivering online services and resources.

- For the 12th year, the Natural Heritage Program was awarded a $10,000 grant from the Noxious Weed Trust Fund to support data entry of Species of Concern and to help support Species of Concern reviews of weed management projects.

- The Natural Heritage Program recruited and hired a new Information Specialist (Braden Burkholder) to start June 3.  Filling this position will allow MTNHP to catch up on the backlog of data to enter into its Animal Observation databases.

- The Natural Heritage Program recruited for and hired two new Ecologist/Photo Interpreters. Joe Fortier started on May 13 and Katie Nicolato will start on June 19. Both will help MTNHP reach its goal of completing a statewide digital wetlands and riparian data layer.